

Thus, the only claims in the group of claims from 11-32 that are specific to Specie I are claims 17-18 and 28-29, and the only claims in that same group that are specific to Specie II are claims 21 and 32. Therefore, claims 11-16, 19-27, and 30-31 are generic as between the two species (including independent claims 11 and 22). Thus, applicants assert that if either of the two independent claims 11 or 22 are found to be allowable, then the claims of Specie II should also be held allowable.

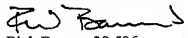
Applicants renew their assertion that in searching the Group II claims, the class and subclass for the Group I claims and both species of Group II will undoubtedly be searched, to ensure that no relevant art is overlooked. For this reason there is no significant burden on the examiner, and certainly no serious burden as required by MPEP § 803. In fact, maintaining the requirement for restriction not only burdens applicants with the additional costs associated with filing and prosecuting separate patent applications, but also requires the examiner to duplicate efforts by examining multiple applications of closely related inventions. Such practice not only wastes public and private funds and Patent Office resources, but also leads to the possibility of inconsistent examinations of closely related inventions. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement.

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that a full and complete response to the office action is provided herein, and request that the application proceed to examination.

Sincerely,

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